

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 /076 W

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R 271028Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEATO, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI COMMENTS ON SUPPLY OF CHINESE
WEAPONS TO THAI INSURGENTS

REF: A. BANGKOK 17924; B. BANGKOK 17925

1. BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS AUG. 27 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI ON AUG. 26 TOLD GROUP OF 17 PROVINCIAL JOURNALISTS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR CHINA THAT NORTH VIET-NAM WAS TRYING TO CAUSE A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA. SPECIFICALLY, CHATCHAI QUOTED AS STATING THAT NORTH VIET-NAM IS SUPPLYING TERRORISTS IN THAILAND WITH WEAPONS IT HAD OBTAINED FROM CHINA. HE RECALLED, HOWEVER, THAT CHINESE LEADERS HAD UNDERTAKEN NOT REPEAT NOT TO INTERFERE IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS DURING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TO PEKING IN JUNE.

2. NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF MFA, TOLD EMBOFF AUG. 27 THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS WENT BEYOND WHAT CHATCHAI HAD ACTUALLY SAID. ACCORDING TO NITSAI, FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MERELY SAID THAT SOME OF WEAPONS SEIZED FROM THAI TERRORISTS WERE CHINESE-MADE
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AND HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY NORTH VIET-NAM. THIS ACTION

MIGHT LEAVE IMPRESSION AMONG SOME THAIS THAT CHINA HAD SUPPLIED THE ARMS. HOWEVER, NITSAL ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT REPEAT NOT ACCUSE HANOI OF DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S PENCHANT FOR SHOOTING FROM THE HIP IS WELL-KNOWN, AND IT IS NITSAL'S JOB TO PUT EVENTS IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. CHATCHAI SPOKE WITH PRESS IN IMPROMPTU FASHION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AUG. 26 (REFTELS), AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT HE NUANCED HIS REMARKS ON NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS IN WAY DESCRIBED BY NITSAL. INCIDENT UNDERLINES THAI WISH TO BELIEVE THAT CHINA IS CONTINUING TO RESPECT ITS UNDERTAKING MADE TO KHUKRIT NOT REPEAT NOT TO INTERFERE IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RECENT BROADCAST BY VOICE OF THAI PEOPLE FROM CHINA (TEXT REPORTED BY FBIS TO WASHINGTON, EMBASSY COMMENT IN SEPTTEL) IS NOT REPEAT NOT ENCOURAGING SIGN IN THIS CONNECTION.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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